/2/ and in contrast to the position of Gluckman and the "Manchester School," yet the alternatives of considering the Iban population of either the urban area or the rural area to the neglect of the other would have seriously biased the data which reveal a regional pattern of interaction and warrant the juxtaposition of the urban and the rural populations in a single study.

/2 The regional approach involved an historical study of Sibu Town and District, based upon materials available in the Sarawak Museum Archives, Kuching, the Sibu District Office, and various government departments. Long-time residents of the area were interviewed, including Tuba Apai Billy, a renowned lemambang ("bard") of Rewang Assan, and two of the original Chinese settlers, Lin Wen Tsung and Ling Kai Ching. Using data obtained from these and other sources it was possible to describe the demographic patterns and economic bases of the region.

Traditional anthropological techniques such as participant observation and work with key informants permitted a social structural analysis in both rural and urban areas. Surveys were made in 37 longhouses to determine, among other things, the age and quality of the house, relative sufficiency in rice production, composition of the bilik-family, evidence of longhouse fragmentation and changes in residence patterns. Concentrated studies were made on four houses: Rumah Nyala of Sungai

12 Anp, Rumah Imba and Rumah Nyelang of Salim, and Rumah Gaong of Sengan. The studies of these four houses included collection of genealogies, the inter-relatedness of bilik-families and a longitudinal analysis of their fluctuations, as well as economic and ritual activities of the members of each house.

Census data collected in 1958 and 1966 were available in the District Office for most of the 37 houses surveyed, and for the houses in the areas of Pengulu Chat and Pengarah Chundi for 1970. A major problem encountered in the research was the absence of recent census materials. Consequently, censuses were carried out in 1970 on those houses not covered in the 1970 materials available. A survey was conducted of 200 residents of Sibu Town to determine their backgrounds, education, employment, incidence and forms of help for parents, and factors involved in their movement into Sibu. Questionnaires designed to assess the effects of education on residence patterns and employment were mailed to former Iban secondary school students of whom 143 returned the forms.

Using the technique of intensive interviewing, I collected life
12| histories from nine Ibans. Combining this information with personal observations, it was possible to describe and analyze verbally and graphically the social networks of these individuals and their families.